



Reviewing GED® 2014 Materials

Here's a quick review of the type of materials that are or will soon be available for your programs:

Print and Software Resources

For the previous test, we found that using both print and software for a print assessment has worked well. In the past, the higher emphasis is on paper products, as the GED® 2002 version is paper-based test. For the 2014 computer-based test, it will be more important to include a software resource for your students. Having both print and software is highly beneficial for your students.

Four Types of Materials

1) Core Curriculum

These are study materials that include the four subject areas of the new test. Materials would be found either in a single book, broken down into subject books, or as a software program. Many of the features listed below you should look for in both print and software resources:

- Subjects are: Reasoning through Language Arts, Mathematical Reasoning, Social Studies and Science
- Critical thinking skills throughout, with references to Depth of Knowledge (DOK)
- Alignment to the GED 2014 (not just aligned to “Common Core State Standards”)
- Instructional lessons at a minimum of 2 pages
- For multiple choice questions, there should be 4, not 5 optional answers
- Explanation/description/practice of the new Item Types reflective of the 2014 test
- Association between a company's print and software materials (are both offered?)

2) Supplemental Materials

These resources usually focus on areas that students historically have difficulty when preparing for the GED® test – usually math, writing, critical thinking and graphical/visual skills. In print materials, you'll see “skill book” type materials (under 100 pages in length; stapled). In addition, other materials that could fall under this category would be software programs that help students become comfortable with using computers as well as the new calculator (Texas Instruments, TI-30SX).

Although these books concentrate on specific areas of the test, you can utilize the list of features listed under “Core Curriculum” to make sure the product is aligned to the new test.

3) Instructor/Teacher Resources

These materials are Resource Guides (either separate book or 3-ring binder) aligned to a particular publisher's series. In addition, the new book, “Teaching Adults: A 2014 GED® Resource Book” by New Readers Press is a first of its kind, as it covers the 2014 test without aligning itself to a single publisher.

4) Assessment

For the 2002 version, we've used the “OPT” – the Official GED® Practice Test. For the 2014 test, look for *GED Ready*®, created by Pearson/GEDTS and distributed from a variety of publishers contracted w/ Pearson. The free/Sampler version will be available in September 2013, live version available in November, 2013.

Pricing

Print Resources

There isn't anything new here – usually volume discounts are available, however, some publishers vary on the lowest quantity when a discount would apply. Also, publishers will offer pre-publication discounts, but make sure you see at least sample pages and a Table of Contents before taking advantage of this pricing.

Software Resources

Software pricing varies from publisher to publisher, and you need to be diligent in reviewing their pricing structure. Most programs are now Internet-based, with an annual fee. Also note that each publisher uses their own labeling for their type of licenses. Here are some basic structures:

- Annual Program License. This is the annual fee you pay to access a program. In most cases, you also buy “seats” in addition to the program license.
- Seat - Price per student. This is a price per student, usually lasting for a year. Once assigned to a student, it cannot be reused for another student
- Seat – Concurrent. The number of seats you select is based on the maximum number of students that would be working on the program at any given time. You will see a higher price per seat under this structure.
- Site License – Unlimited Seats. This is an annual fee you pay, and with that license, you have an unlimited number of students you can serve. However, the license applies to a physical location, so larger organizations with various campuses would need multiple site licenses

Publishers

Here are a few tips on what to pay attention to when working with a print or software publisher:

- Length of time in the test-preparation, GED® or adult education market
- Company emphasis (are they primarily adult education, K-12, higher ed, or other?)
- Are they a Profit or Non-Profit company?
- What is the return policy (both print and software)?
- Is there training available (as needed) and any associated costs?
- Are there local reps that can be on-site, or is sales handled only through the phone? Are the reps available post-sale, or only up to the point of sale?
- Location of company (U.S. or outside the U.S.?)
- Does the publisher support your regional and state conferences (as a vendor)?
- Customer Service (and Tech Support!) – Availability for questions, knowledge of products, etc.
- Quality of web site for information and other support; availability of information on the web site on who runs the company and their background; ease of locating information
- Additional materials available with or without a purchase (free online resources, samples, etc.)

I hope this is helpful in your review of materials. Please contact me for further information and specifics on GED® 2014 and other adult basic education materials.